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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1374  
INFO RUEH2G/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0366  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0909  
RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0448  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0831  
RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0332  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0696  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0491  
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0457  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9733  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3358  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3524  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0942  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2985  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 001573

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/25/2018  
TAGS: PREL PGOV MARR MOPS NATO IT AF IZ IR LE PK

SUBJECT: GEN PETRAEUS DISCUSSES IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN WITH ITALIAN LEADERS

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald P. Spogli for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

11. (C) Summary: Italy's leaders warmly welcomed the December 9-10 visit of U.S. CENTCOM Commander, Gen. David Petraeus. In his meetings with F

Italy's Top Leaders Listen to Petraeus

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12. (U) U.S. CENTCOM Commander Gen. David Petraeus met with Italy's top leaders during his December 9-10 visit to Rome. In addition to his meet

Afghanistan: U.S. Committing New Forces, Italy Mum

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13. (C) Gen. Petraeus told Italian interlocutors that he had always expected Afghanistan to be " "the longest campaign of the long war." " He not

14. (C) None of the Italian interlocutors responded directly to Petraeus on increasing Italy's contribution. Foreign Minister Frattini noted th

15. (C) Frattini noted that he had received a very discouraging report from the Italian UN Ambassador on the Security Council trip to Afghanist

Pakistan: Fundamentalists " "Existential Threat" "

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16. (C) Petraeus characterized the Mumbai attacks as a " "9/11 moment" " for Pakistan. The Zardari government now must contend with fact that the

G-8 Conference on Pakistan-Afghanistan

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17. (C) Frattini highlighted the Italian proposal to host a ministerial-level conference on stabilizing the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region

Iraq: Learning the Right Lessons

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18. (U) Gen. Petraeus reported that in Iraq the full spectrum surge - troops plus civilian capabilities - had resulted in an over 90 per cent c

Iran: Changing the Regional Equation

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19. (C) Prime Minister Berlusconi told Petraeus that Italy seeks to maintain good relations with most countries so that it can serve as an inte

Syria: Undermining Iranian Influence

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10. (C) Petraeus argued that wresting Syria from Iran's influence was critical to an enduring solution in Lebanon and also to modifying Iran's

Lebanon: Good Job on Sensitive Mission, but significant problems remain

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11. (U) On Lebanon, Petraeus thanked the Italians for their leadership of UNIFIL and praised the Italian commander, General Graziano, for runn

Looking for More Troops

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12. (C) Chief of Defense Camporini told Petraeus that it was time to reexamine commitments in Kosovo. While the issues are not settled there,

Comment

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13. (C) Italy's leadership was mostly in listening mode, eagerly looking for indications of any change of direction by the incoming Administrat

14. (C) Petraeus' Italian military interlocutors, however, gave clear indications that they feel their troop levels in Afghanistan are too low

15. (U) General Petraeus has cleared this message.

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